

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0561-US1

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for scheduling the  
5 execution of a plurality of commands, said data processing system  
including an environment which executes commands concurrently,  
wherein said commands are executed without regard to a completion  
of execution of any other ones of said commands, said method  
comprising the step of:

10 scheduling execution of said plurality of commands in said  
environment in a programming order, a first one of said plurality  
of commands in said order beginning and completing executing  
prior to a second one of said commands in said order beginning  
executing, wherein said plurality of commands are executed  
15 sequentially in said programming order.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the  
steps of:

encapsulating said first one of said plurality of commands  
20 in a first process and encapsulating said second one of said  
plurality of commands in a second process;

beginning processing of said first process;

executing said first one of said plurality of commands in  
response to said beginning processing of said first process,  
25 wherein said first one of said plurality of commands executes  
only while said first process is executing; and

beginning processing of said second process only in response  
to a completion of processing of said first process.

30 3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step  
of completing processing of said first process in response to a  
completion of execution of said first one of said plurality of

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commands.

4. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of executing said second one of said plurality of commands in response to said beginning processing of said second process.

5. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of determining whether said first process is currently executing.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said step of determining whether said first process is currently executing further comprises the steps of:

establishing a return code variable; and

utilizing said return code variable to indicate whether said first process is currently executing.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said step of determining whether said first process is currently executing further comprises the steps of:

assigning a first process identifier to said first process; and

utilizing said first process identifier to determine whether said first process is currently executing.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

searching a process table for said first process identifier;

determining that said first process is executing in response to locating said process identifier in said process table; and

determining that said first process is not executing in response to a failure to locate said process identifier in said process table.

9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

5        setting said return code variable equal to a first value  
      while said first process is executing; and  
      setting said return code variable equal to a second value  
      when said first process has completed executing.

10    10. The method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

      establishing a timer for said first process;  
      starting said timer in response to executing said first  
process; and  
      testing said return code variable to determine whether said  
15    return code variable is equal to said second value upon the  
      expiration of said timer.

20    11. A data processing system for scheduling the execution of a  
      plurality of commands, said data processing system including an  
      environment which executes commands concurrently, wherein said  
      commands are executed without regard to a completion of execution  
      of any other ones of said commands, comprising:

25        a scheduler script executing within said data processing  
      system for scheduling execution of said plurality of commands in  
      said environment in a programming order; and

30        said scheduler script including means for scheduling a first  
      one of said plurality of commands in said order to begin and  
      complete executing prior to a second one of said commands in said  
      order beginning executing, wherein said plurality of commands are  
      executed sequentially in said programming order.

12. The system according to claim 11, further comprising:

means for encapsulating said first one of said plurality of commands in a first process and encapsulating said second one of said plurality of commands in a second process;

5 means for beginning processing of said first process;

means for executing said first one of said plurality of commands in response to said beginning processing of said first process, wherein said first one of said plurality of commands executes only while said first process is executing; and

10 means for beginning processing of said second process only in response to a completion of processing of said first process.

13. The system according to claim 12, further comprising means for completing processing of said first process in response to a completion of execution of said first one of said plurality of commands.

14. The system according to claim 12, further comprising means for executing said second one of said plurality of commands in response to said beginning processing of said second process.

15. The system according to claim 12, further comprising means for determining whether said first process is currently executing.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein said means for determining whether said first process is currently executing further comprises:

means for establishing a return code variable; and

30 means for utilizing said return code variable to indicate whether said first process is currently executing.

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17. The system according to claim 16, wherein said means for determining whether said first process is currently executing further comprises:

5 means for assigning a first process identifier to said first process; and

means for utilizing said first process identifier to determine whether said first process is currently executing.

18. The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

10 means for searching a process table for said first process identifier;

means for determining that said first process is executing in response to locating said process identifier in said process table; and

15 means for determining that said first process is not executing in response to a failure to locate said process identifier in said process table.

19. The system according to claim 18, further comprising:

20 means for setting said return code variable equal to a first value while said first process is executing; and

means for setting said return code variable equal to a second value when said first process has completed executing.

25 20. The system according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for establishing a timer for said first process;

means for starting said timer in response to executing said first process; and

30 means for testing said return code variable to determine whether said return code variable is equal to said second value upon the expiration of said timer.

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21. A computer program product for scheduling the execution of a plurality of commands, said data processing system including an environment which executes commands concurrently, wherein said commands are executed without regard to a completion of execution of any other ones of said commands, said computer program product comprising:

a scheduler script instruction means executing within said data processing system for scheduling execution of said plurality of commands in said environment in a programming order; and

said scheduler script instruction means including instruction means for scheduling a first one of said plurality of commands in said order to begin and complete executing prior to a second one of said commands in said order beginning executing, wherein said plurality of commands are executed sequentially in said programming order.

22. The computer program product according to claim 21, further comprising:

instruction means for encapsulating said first one of said plurality of commands in a first process and encapsulating said second one of said plurality of commands in a second process;

instruction means for beginning processing of said first process;

instruction means for executing said first one of said plurality of commands in response to said beginning processing of said first process, wherein said first one of said plurality of commands executes only while said first process is executing; and

instruction means for beginning processing of said second process only in response to a completion of processing of said first process.

23. The computer program product according to claim 22, further

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0561-US1

comprising instruction means for completing processing of said first process in response to a completion of execution of said first one of said plurality of commands.

5 24. The computer program product according to claim 22, further comprising instruction means for executing said second one of said plurality of commands in response to said beginning processing of said second process.

10 25. The computer program product according to claim 22, further comprising instruction means for determining whether said first process is currently executing.

15 26. The computer program product according to claim 25, wherein said instruction means for determining whether said first process is currently executing further comprises:

instruction means for establishing a return code variable;  
and

20 instruction means for utilizing said return code variable to indicate whether said first process is currently executing.

27. The computer program product according to claim 26, wherein said instruction means for determining whether said first process is currently executing further comprises:

25 instruction means for assigning a first process identifier to said first process; and

instruction means for utilizing said first process identifier to determine whether said first process is currently executing.

30 28. The computer program product according to claim 27, further comprising:

instruction means for searching a process table for said first process identifier;

instruction means for determining that said first process is  
5 executing in response to locating said process identifier in said  
process table; and

instruction means for determining that said first process is not executing in response to a failure to locate said process identifier in said process table.

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29. The computer program product according to claim 28, further comprising:

instruction means for setting said return code variable equal to a first value while said first process is executing; and

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instruction means for setting said return code variable equal to a second value when said first process has completed executing.

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30. The computer program product according to claim 29, further comprising:

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        instruction means for establishing a timer for said first
process;

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instruction means for starting said timer in response to  
executing said first process; and

instruction means for testing said return code variable to determine whether said return code variable is equal to said second value upon the expiration of said timer.